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# REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

Vol. III, No. 13 840 Boatmen's Bank Bldg., St. Louis 2, Mo.

Nov. 30, 1945

## TERMINAL LEAVE PAYMENT BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT

From his new headquarters in Washington, John Asher flashes the news that President Truman has signed the Downey Bill which authorizes the Army, Navy Public Health Service, and Goodetic Survey to make lump sum payments for terminal leave to its officers who plan to take civilian jobs in the federal government.

The act is retroactive to June 1940, and those officers who waived terminal leave to take federal jobs may now be paid for it.

REA employees on military furlough who are officers may now return to their jobs without waiting for their terminal leave to expire.

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### "HITCH-HIKE HARRY" HE WAS KNOWN AS

Lt. Hardin Shattuck really gets around in the Pacific. "Hitch-hike Harry" they call me these days," he states after his voyage (which included dodging typhoons) that lasted 8 days and covered thousands of miles from Iwo Jima to and over the Japanese mainland and back again.

His travels afforded a look-see at atomic bomb damage. Succinctly stated, "Yokohama is pitiful, Hiroshima is ashes." He saw plenty of other bomb damage, too. Enough to convince him that Japan was beaten and knew it before and without the atomic bomb, and to make him realize that "this power had better be put into safe hands."

Describing the Japanese mainland, Hardin writes, "From the air the Jap countryside is very pretty. The small towns in this area were plainly out of the war effort by being starved out. Little stores and shops in the villages were empty. Tokyo proper is about 50% destroyed. The depot, said to be the world's largest, is gutted. The war ministry building, located near the Diet and the Palace, is gone while the two other buildings mentioned are relatively undamaged--pinpoint bombing was in evidence everywhere."

He says he has a souvenir to send back--a Jap field telephone dug out of a cave on Suribachi. It's in bad shape, according to him, but he feels sure some of the "nuts" (the quotes are his) in Sammy's tribe can fix it. He sends a picture of himself and the gang he is over (18 men in all) plus "Peaches", a dog mascot of no particular breed but the pet of his outfit. Another picture shows his Quonset hut, radio tower, and even his jeep (for fond remembrance when he's no longer in service).

## WAR VETS SCORE ANOTHER TOUCHDOWN

The REA War Veterans Association again showed renewed vigor by sponsoring a Victory and Farewell Ball earlier this month. The "Victory" part celebrated the war's end while the "Farewell" stood for REA's folding up its tents in St. Louis and, like Arabs in the poem, caravanning away to Washington.

Of special significance to those in service was the presentation to Administrator Claude R. Wickard of a wine set, six jiggers and tray, all made from expended shells in the Aleutians. The presentation address, made by the Association's president, J. J. Wilhelm, carried this thought, "In behalf of that large segment of REA in uniform serving their country in all quarters of the world--men and women who could not be here to welcome you as the new administrator and who cannot be present tonight to help celebrate the Victory which their efforts helped make possible--in remembrance of them this souvenir is presented from the Pacific Theatre of Operations, a set of shell glasses made by Lt. (j.g.) Nat Levinson on military furlough from Technical Standards."

### SERVES ON MACARTHUR'S WRITING STAFF

Sgt. Al Gerber is blooming out in a literary way. "Since last writing you," he informs us, "I went to Manila with General MacArthur's headquarters where I was in a section writing magazine publicity until the surrender when news became important and I was transferred to the news section. When you see those little items emanating from Tokyo to the effect that Gen. MacArthur announced today that another war criminal is on the list or something, it might well have been that I wrote the story and probably stencilled it."

He also writes for the Stars & Stripes, Tokyo edition. In connection with his work as staff writer on this publication an unusual incident came about when Gerber interviewed Col. Westray Battle Boyce, chief of the Women's Army Corps, when she was in Tokyo October 16. A few years ago, when both worked for REA, he used to do some of the legal work that came up from the insurance section with which Westray was connected. "I might say," adds Gerber, "that she did not pull any rank on me and was as sweet as ever."

(Over)



# SERVES ON MACARTHUR'S WRITING STAFF (Cont'd)

# COLUMN WRITE (Cont'd)

Another clipping of interest from Stars and Stripes featured Mrs. Gerber whom Al entered as one of the contestants for the title of "Mrs. Occupation", a sort of beauty contest put on by the boys in honor of their wives. The underlines of her picture read, "the best looking girl on the face of the earth" (it pays to have a journalistic husband, doesn't it?). Another piece of his writing comes to light in a recent issue of the Washington Post where Gerber discusses at length the "Occupation Needs" of Japan. From interviews to popularity contests and across to problems of state--Al takes 'em all in the same Gerber stride and with equal ease.

## FROM HERE TO THERE

Lt. Donald E. Allen, Bluff City, Kan.; Pvt. Lorraine B. Cates, Luzon, APO 75, San Francisco; Capt. Kermit R. Cline, Camp Pickett, Va.; Lt. Col. Geo. Ditlow, Kansas City; Sgt. Ray Gallagher, APO 741; T/Sgt. John R. Genau, Ft. Thomas, Ky.; Sgt. Al Gerber, APO 83, New York; Ensign J. K. Harrison, Rockledge, Fla.; Capt. Herbert Ide, Muscatine, Ia.; Capt. Darrell L. Johnson, APO 710, San Francisco; F. C. 2/c Edward R. Knight, LST 765, FPO San Francisco; Lt. Joseph H. Lang, Portsmouth, N. H.; M/Sgt. Howard C. Paine, APO 717, San Francisco; Sgt. Harold T. Pyfrom, APO 901, San Francisco; Pfc. Phil Widman, APO 75, San Francisco; Lt. J. R. Oberholtzer, APO 19778-A, San Francisco; 2nd Lt. Orville W. Zastrow, APO 494, New York; Lt. Joel M. Babb, Gray Court, S.C.; James N. Thompson, Leonard, Tex.; G. L. Ragan, Mitchellville, Ia.; S. Sgt. Chas. M. Cox, APO 34, New York;

## GOING UP

S/Sgt. Chas. M. Cox; Lt. Comdr. Donald E. Allen; Sgt. Forrest R. George; Ensign J. K. Harrison; Capt. Darrell Johnson; Lt. Comdr. Gordon Messmer; T/Sgt. John R. Genau; Sgt. Ray Gallagher; Sgt. Anthony Capriglione; Lt. Comdr. Wm. Melchiorson; Lt. Joseph H. Lang, USNR; M/Sgt. Howard C. Paine;

## COLUMN WRITE

Just a line from T. T. ROMAN, formerly T/Sgt. Roman, to say he is back in civvies and will be joining us in Washington.

LOU KNOWLES, only REA'or in the Merchant Marine, has been released and expects to rejoin us by January 1.

NAVY LT. S. HOUSTON LAY, still chief officer of the LSM 103, writes from the Pacific, "I'm point happy and hoping for orders to the States for release anytime now. Have had enough points for many weeks, but can't seem to get started in the right direction--just keep running back and forth from Japan to Okinawa."

A message from MAJOR ROBERT E. LARSON at Ft. Ord informs us he was transferred to VII Corps scheduled for Japan. "But someone changed his mind," he explains, "and we took over the work of the XXXVI Corps, remaining in the States."

CHARLOTTE LANDRY is now with the American Embassy in Rome.

Released from Schick General Hospital Nov. 13, LT. JAMES N. THOMPSON was shipped to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for that "glorious process known as 'separation'" which made him a civilian again although his terminal leave runs until Feb. 5.

That plaintive plea by LARRY RAGAN in a recent Roll Call has been revoked. He has been discharged and without getting married, either! Enjoying himself at home (Mitchellville, Ia.) he writes, "I will be joining REA in Washington when I hope to meet the old gang and make new acquaintances."

GORDON MESSMER was discharged in time to spend Thanksgiving with homefolks in Denver. He is driving east and may drop in to see us soon.

LT. COMDR. WM. MELCHIORSEN writes from the Philippines, "Have been Assistant Electronics Officer here at the Ship Repair Base on Manicani Island. We have a ferry service to Guinan, the nearest native village. Large numbers of Filipines are employed as gardeners and laborers, fixing up the Naval establishments."

S/SGT. CHAS. M. COX hopes to be back by Jan. 1. He is waiting for a transfer to the 88th Division. As soon as replacements arrive, he expects to ship home.

T/SGT. JOHN R. GENAU writes from Italy, "I have enough points for discharge but right now the big tie-up is due to lack of transportation, so we just have to sweat it out. Have been overseas 32 months, serving in both Africa and Italy, and am very anxious for that return trip to materialize as soon as possible."

ENSIGN J. K. HARRISON is currently attached to the Naval Air Station at Banana River, Florida. He expects an early release via the point system.

F. C. 2/c EDWARD R. KNIGHT sent a Japanese coin and a set of chop sticks back as souvenirs to Uncle Joe Marion. He advised Mr. Marion to use the chop sticks as letter openers for best results. Stationed in Honshu, Ed says, "The people are very clean here but have the curiosity of a monkey."